

a lamp, he has made various bold projections of various heights, which seem as foregrounds to the main building; and, lastly, having been probably struck with a variety of outline against the sky in many Gothic and other ancient buildings, he has raised, on the top of that part where the slanting roof begins in any house of the Italian style, a number of decorations of various characters.

These, if not new in themselves, have at least been applied, and combined by him in a new and peculiar manner; and the union of them gives a surprising splendour and magnificence, as well as variety, to the summit of that princely edifice. The study, therefore, not the imitation, might be extremely serviceable to artists of genius and discernment."

Castle Howard, in Yorkshire, was commenced for Charles, the third Earl of Carlisle, in 1702, and was completed by Vanbrugh, with the exception of the west wing. This extensive pile is 660 feet in length. The length of Blenheim on the north front, from one wing to the other, is 348 feet; the internal dimensions of the library are 130 by 32 feet. The hall is 53 feet by 44, and 60 feet high ("Gwillt's Encyclopedia"). "The secret history of the building of Blenheim," in D'Israeli's "Curiosities of Literature," shews the distressing difficulties in which Vanbrugh was involved by this commission.

The first volume of *THE BUILDER* (p. 173) contains some observations on these structures, and a memoir of the architect.

#### FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COL- LATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

*Disproportion between the "dwellings of the rich and poor" at Berlin.*—If we perceive, that any inconvenience, which oppresses this country, is to be met with also in such places as we thought hitherto exempt therefrom—our attention ought to be the more intensively called to the remedying of these evils, which thus appear not merely national, but rather general evils, which oppress the present system of society. Accounts from Berlin of a very recent date, state the following:—"We also begin to feel here an evil of a quite especial nature. Although our city extends every year to the amount of whole districts, and splendid mansions are raised on all sides—the want of dwellings for the poor becomes every day more felt. It seems as if building was merely carried on for the sake of the rich—and the owners won't take any one but generals, privy councillors, and bankers in their first floors, substantial shop-keepers in the third.\* What is below that, is only a nuisance for them. But now, Berlin increases every year by 10,000 souls, which, in a great proportion, belong to the working classes. The 'habitational' circumstances of this class become every day more gloomy, and it seems to us, that while the authorities take care, that no light weight be used, no adulterated bread or putrid meat be sold—they might also turn their attention this way. The rental of all houses in Berlin amounts annually to 1,101,031 rix-dalers (at 3s. each); and the average price of a dwelling (*Wohnung*) is now 110 rixdalers; in 1802, however, it was merely 50, which is a very gloomy and astonishing fact. It is certain, that the number of dwellings, whose rent is fifty dollars or less, is more than half of the whole number—viz. 35,577; and even this most humble amount (about 7l. a year) can't be afforded by a very great number of the labouring class of Berlin."—*Hamburg Correspondent*.

*Superrevision of Public Works in France.*—The minister of public works has undertaken a journey of inspection of the harbours of Cette, Marseilles, &c. He is also examining the railways of the south of France, either those in full traffic, or such as are constructing, or merely projected lines. The canal of Languedoc, in all its details, has been most minutely inspected by the right honourable gentleman.

*The late Carpenter's Strike at Paris (in a nutshell).*—The late demonstration of the journeymen carpenters can be viewed with satisfaction by any lover of his kind—as these men have brought forth their claim quite unalloyed with any admixture of intimidation or physical

force. They have reasoned like reasonable beings, and it is their masters who are at fault. The rationale of the whole affair is as follows. In the year 1833 a formal convention (if we may translate thus) had been held between the masters and journeymen carpenters, by which the wages of a day's work were fixed at four francs. From that period, however, a constant oscillation began to manifest itself between the latter item and that of five francs. In asking, therefore, in 1845, that the latter sum should be made the fixed one for a day's wages, the journeymen wanted merely to have authorised formally, what already had become sanctioned by custom. The masters, certainly, had a right to refuse—but no more. But instead of confining themselves to this, they formed a coalition, and resolved on fixing again the item at four francs, viz., the price of labour twelve years ago. In the lawsuit, which has occupied, of late, the French courts, it was argued, that this was merely a passive procedure—a point, however, on which we are not called upon here to dilate. The *Cour royale* will have now to decide on the appeal, interposed by the journeymen against the verdict of the inferior tribunals.

*Brunswick.*—At the restoration of the cathedral, some fresco paintings on the walls, have been of late discovered, which are of the period of Henry the Lion, amongst which is the portrait of this Monarch of the Brunswick line. They are painted on wet lime, and may be restored with *tempera* colours, and are so far preserved, that their age may be accurately ascertained. The figure of Henry (d. 1195), much resembles his coeval statue still extant; and the whole of the pictures, although not perfect master-pieces, possess some value for the history of art, as they may be the only ones in Germany from that early date.—[*Allgemeine Zeitung*.]

*Grätz (Austria).*—On the second of this month was opened a new institution for the advancement of the working-classes, viz., what is called in Germany "*Rail Schule*," a school of realities. Here the children of workers are instructed *gratis*, or at a merely nominal expense, in arithmetica, algebra, geometry, chemistry and physics—the art of drawing and calligraphy. At the Academy of Arts young people may also learn the arts of design. There is, moreover, in that city an Association of Industry, a technical establishment joined to the *Johanninum*, a gymnasium (small college), and a University. Grätz is a city, whose population is not much above that of Woolwich, or such other metropolitan villages.

*Meetings of the Académie des Sciences (R. S.) at Paris, 6th to 13th October.*—Mr. Colas, who has made a very felicitous invention for copying (moulding) statues, even in different proportions (sizes), has solicited the academy to appoint a commission for examining his discovery and its proceedings.—Mr. Bains, the gentleman who claims the priority of invention of electric telegraphs over Mr. Wheatstone, stated his new procedures for setting all the clocks of a city into motion, and to make them keep accurate time. He says, that it is by means of electric conducting tubes, that he will effect his purpose.—Dr. Brack spoke nearly an hour on his new definition of "a straight line." The French press ridicules this attempt—still, if we consider, that not even the level of any fluid, water or any other, is, or ever can be horizontal, but (in reality) is convex, the subject assumes some meaning; which, however, can hardly ever become of a practical bearing.—*An Improvement on Sir H. Dary's Safety Lamp for Mines.*—As this, albeit, a splendid discovery has not answered all the requisites of such an instrument, Mr. De la Rive has occupied himself with a new contrivance, by which the lamp is entirely placed *without the control* of the person using it. This appears the more important, as statistical tables prove, that 400 persons lose their lives, in Europe, every year by the explosion of gas in mines and the like places. The main of Mr. Rive's discovery is a cylinder of charcoal, which is kept incandescent by an electric stream. Such a lamp can be kept enclosed hermetically in a glass globe, as this development of light requires no oxygen, and thus every danger of explosion is removed; besides the light is more intense than can pass through the dense metal-wire wicker-work of Sir Humphrey's lamp. Mr. R. acknowledges the yet imperfec-

tion of his lamp, which consists in the *incon-  
stancy* of the light developed, but hopes that a longer experimentalising will bring it to complete perfection.

"*A hint*" to the working classes—"of Paris."—It is reported on the best authority, that the Préfet de Police, has submitted to the King in council a report of great importance on the dangerous results, which would follow the exclusive concentration of all currency on railway enterprise. Mr. Prefet has energetically signalled the grave inconvenience of this total absorption of cash in stock-jobbing and *agiotage*. He concludes by pointing out, that if there be no prompt remedy resorted to against this nuisance, it is to be apprehended, that the middle commercial classes of "Paris" (?) could not effect their payments—at Christmas, which could not but be accompanied by a very deplorable crisis. It is added, that the whole council (of ministers) were struck by these observations, which they considered of the highest importance. Measures are to be forthwith resorted to for obviating (as far as it is possible now) this abnormal state of speculation—or rather downright gambling by many persons, who indeed, can hardly afford such expensive amusement.—*Gazette de France*.

*The Scientific Congress at Naples.*—To our former notices, we have only to add, that on the 3rd October, a pilgrimage was undertaken to the Temple of *Pæstum*. A royal steam-boat conducted more than 300 of the savants to those sublime ruins. We hardly have to speak of royal banquets and balls, which, however, were very numerous and splendid. On the great number of sages here assembled, the following epigram was circulated at Naples:—

Quando in Grecia le scienze ebber primato,  
Sol sette savii al trovar s'erano stento,  
Or, che le scienze van più buon mercato  
Ne son guanti qui mille a sette cento.

When in Hellas, science held the highest sway,  
But seven sages formed the saint array;  
Now, they are as cheap as apples—  
Seventeen-hundred alone—in Naples!  
J. L.—Y.

#### RICHMOND.

This favourite resort of the Londoner, already celebrated in unnumbered detached verses, has found a new and eloquent eulogist in Mr. Charles Ellis, who has recently published a pretty little volume descriptive of it.\* Tracing its history from the time when Sheen, as it was then called, was a residence of the reigning monarch,

—"And noise of tourney proud  
Rang to the palace gates,"

he brings together all the associations connected with the neighbourhood, and sings the praise of honoured dwellers there.

The possession of the volume will materially increase the pleasure of a lounge on Richmond-hill, or a stroll through the park. The following stanza is descriptive of a view from the latter, which all who know the park will remember well:—

"A thousand gardens open to your sight,  
Unnumber'd cottages and villas peep—  
Now red—now dusky brown—now grey—now white—  
There Kingston's dwellings rise, a numerous heap  
Thus gazed upon, though still the church-towers keep  
Their full distinction—then far onward still,  
E'en quite unto the clear horizon, sweep,  
To groups sublime, luxuriant trees, with hill  
And swelling mound inwove by Nature's faultless skill."

It is not generally remembered, that at Kingston the first king of all England was crowned, and that Queen Elizabeth ended her days at Richmond, March, 1603.

Edward I. and II. resided at the latter place and Edward III. died there. It was rebuilt by Henry VII., and the name was changed by him to Richmond. Nothing now remains of the palace but an archway of ordinary construction, formerly part of one of the offices.

\* "*Richmond, and other Poems*," by Charles Ellis, Madmen, Leadenhall-street, 1844.

\* In Germany, several families of the first rank, or nearly so, live together in one house.